

Message Text

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INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA 4980

UNCLAS STATE 166300

FOL REPEAT OF EC BRUSSELS 6322 TO ERDA GERMANTOWN, INFO PARIS
BRASILIA, SECSTATE, NRC WASHDC JUL 11

QTE:

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 6322

ERDA PASS TO A.S. FRIEDMAN, DIP; T.A. NEMZEK, RRD

NRC PASS TO H. H. BROWN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECHN BR

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN RESEARCH REACTOR

REF: BRASILIA 5657

M RECENT PRESS REPORTS (E.G. THE FINANCIAL TIMES AND REUTERS)

HAVE CREDITED FRANCE WITH THE SALE TO BRAZIL OF A FAST
BREEDER REACTOR, COBRA. THE REACTOR IS TO BE BUILT IN RIO
DE JANEIRO BY THE FRENCH NUCLEAR CONCERN, TECHNICATOME (90
PERCENT CEA, 10 PERCENT EDF) DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

2. MISSION HAS CONTACTED TECHNICATOME AND DETERMINED THAT
THE REACTOR IS NOT A FAST REACTOR BUT IN FACT A SMALL 100 MW
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WATER MODERATED POOL TYPE THERMAL REACTOR, ONE OF A LINE OF

EXPERIMENTAL FACILITIES FOR SALE BY TECHNICATOME. COBRA (THE NAME CHOSEN BY BRAZIL) WILL BE A SLIGHTLY MODIFIED VERSION OF THE MINERVE REACTOR WHICH HAS BEEN OPERATING AT FONTENAY-AUX-ROSES SINCE 1959. IT HAS A CENTRAL CAVITY OF VARIABLE DIMENSIONS THAT CAN BE ADAPTED TO LWR, HWR, OR FBR FUEL STUDIES. THE THERMAL FLUX IS LOW ABOUT 10^9 N/CM² PER SECOND AT FULL POWER. THE CORE CONTAINS HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM (93 PERCENT) FUEL CLAD WITH ALUMINUM.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THE LARGE CENTRAL HOLE OF COBRA WILL ALLOW INCORPORATION OF A THERMAL NEUTRON FILTER OR CONVERTER, THE REACTOR'S VALUE FOR FAST BREEDER REACTOR TESTING WILL BE ESSENTIALLY NIL.
MYERSON UNQTE INGERSOLL

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